

## Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 121705Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3242

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MX, IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT OF MEXICO'S VISIT TO ITALY

REF: ROME 1095; STATE 025468

1. SUMMARY. DURING FEBRUARY 8-11 VISIT TO ITALY, MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA SUCCESSFULLY PRESSED ITALIANS FOR ENDORSEMENT OF CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE PRIMARILY OF BILATERAL NATURE AND APPEAR TO HAVE INVOLVED A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS. ITALIANS APPARENTLY PREFERRED TO AVOID DISCUSSING REAL SUBSTANCE AT THIS TIME, BUT EXPECT TO GET DOWN TO CASES WITH MEXICANS DURING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN ROME NEXT JUNE OR JULY. END SUMMARY.

2. MEXICAN PRESIDENT LUIS ECHERRIVA PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO ITALY FEBUARY 8-11. IN ADDITION TO ROME AND VATICAN, ECHEVERRIA'S ITINERARY INCLUDED TARANTO, CINCENZA AND VENICE. HE DEPARTED FROM LATTER CITY FOR VIENNA ON FEBRUARY 11. ECHEVERRIA HAD MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT LEONE AND PRIME MINISTER RUMOR, AND RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS INCLUDED ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MORO AND HIS MEXICAN COUNTERPART, EMILIO RABASA. ECHEVERRIA ALSO HAD CONTACTS WITH ITALIAN ECONOMIC BIG WIGS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS.

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MEXICAN PRESIDENT WAS FETED AT APPROPRIATE SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, AND

VISIT RECEIVED ROUTINE COVERAGE IN ITALIAN MEDIA.

3. ACCORDING JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FEBRUARY 11, ECHEVERRIA EXPLAINED SUBSTANCE OF CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES TO PRESIDENT LEONE, WHO NOTED CHARTER'S "PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE" IN CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. LEONE REPORTEDLY ASSURED THAT ITALY WOULD TALK UP CHARTER AMONG EC MEMBERS TO WHOM GOI WOULD RECOMMEND CHARTER'S APPROVAL AT NEXT UNGA. LEONE ALSO CONFIRMED ITALIAN DECISION TO PARTICIPATE "IN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE MANNER" IN DELIBERATIONS OF GROUP OF 40.

4. COMMUNIQUE (TEXT BEING POUCHED) ALSO TOUCHED ON FOLLOWING POINTS: (1) MEXICAN INTENTIONS TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH EC AND ITALIAN PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR THIS; (2) MEXICAN/ITALIAN POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS TO TAKE PLACE ON REGULAR BASIS; (3) INCREASED TRADE, JOINT VENTURES AND POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DIRECT AIR LINK WERE DISCUSSED; (4) SATISFACTION WITH PROGRAM OF SENDING ITALIAN TECHNICIANS TO MEXICO, AND AGREEMENT TO SET UP A MEXICAN-ITALIAN TECHNICAL STUDY CENTER; (5) MEXICAN INTEREST IN ITALIAN EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING DEPRESSED AREAS, I.E., SOUTHERN ITALY; (6) ESTABLISHMENT OF ITALIAN LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAMS IN MEXOCO; (7) APPRECIATION FOR ACTIVITIES OF ITALIAN/LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE; (8) ACCEPTANCE BY LEONE OF INVITATION TO VISIT MEXICO AT DATE TO BE DETERMINED.

5. ON FEBRUARY 12 RESPONSIBLE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO PARTICIPATED IN VISIT TOLD US THAT CONVERSATIONS WENT SMOOTHLY, AND THAT COMMUNIQUE WAS ACCURATE OUTLINE OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED. ACCORDING SOURCE, ECHEVERRIA AND RABASA CONCENTRATED ON PUSHING CHARTER AND POLITELY CHIDED ITALIANS FOR THEIR PREVIOUSLY LUKEWARM ATTITUDE ON THE SUBJECT.

6. OFFICIAL SAID THAT MOST DIFFICULT TASK DURING VISIT WAS DRAFTING OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE SINCE MEXICANS WANTED DETAILED DOCUMENT IN CONTRAST TO ITALIAN PREFERENCE FOR VERY GENERAL ONE. HE REMARKED MEXICANS WERE VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT GENERAL REFERENCES IN COMMUNIQUE TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SINCE THEY WERE APPREHENSIVE THAT IT WOULD APPEAR TO OTHERS THAT MEXICANS WERE ARROGATING TO THEMSELVES LEADERSHIP ROLE.

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7. SOURCE SAID IT WAS ITALIAN AIM TO AVOID SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH MEXICANS DURING VISIT, AND FOR THIS REASON MEXICANS PRESSED HARD FOR FOLLOWUP MEETING IN NEAR FUTURE IN ROME, PARTICULARLY ON ECONOMIC SUBJECT. SOURCE SAID ITALIANS MANAGED TO PUT MEXICAN OFF A BIT, AND IT APPEARS THAT NEXT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE HERE IN JUNE OR JULY, AND WILL BE A MIX OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS TO BE FOLLOWED BY A MEETING OF MIXED MEXICAN/ ITALIAN COMMISSION.

8. IF THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ASPECTS TO ECHERVERRIA'S  
VISIT, THEY WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT OF MEXICO'S VISIT TO ITALY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MX, IT, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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